

What is claimed is:

1           1. A sales system comprising user mobile terminals, each  
2 owned by a train passenger, for storing an in-train merchandise  
3 purchase program; salesperson terminals each borne by a  
4 salesperson in the train; a merchandise management terminal  
5 connected to said user mobile terminals and said salesperson  
6 terminals via a network in the train; and a merchandise management  
7 server to which said merchandise management terminal is connected  
8 via the Internet; wherein:

9           said merchandise management terminal has:

10           means, upon receiving ordering information entered from  
11 said user mobile terminal in accordance with said in-train  
12 merchandise purchase program, for discerning the payment method  
13 and, for transferring said ordering information to said  
14 salesperson terminal if the payment method is cash payment; and

15           means, for requesting said merchandise management  
16 server to give authentication if the payment method is any other  
17 method than cash payment and, for transferring said ordering  
18 information to said salesperson terminal if authentication is  
19 given; and

20           said merchandise management server has means for settling  
21 account with the passenger requiring any non-cash payment method  
22 when notified by said salesperson terminal of the completion  
23 of a sale via said merchandise management terminal.

1           2. The sales system, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said  
2 merchandise management server has authenticating means, upon  
3 receiving a request for authentication from said merchandise  
4 management terminal, for checking whether the name and the

5 password contained in said ordering information are identical  
6 with the respective ones registered in advance as personal  
7 information; for discerning whether account settlement  
8 information matching the payment method contained in said  
9 ordering information is contained in the pertinent personal  
10 information and, for giving authentication if both the name and  
11 the password are identical and the account settlement information  
12 is registered.

1 3. A sales system comprising user mobile terminals, each  
2 owned by a train passenger; salesperson terminals each borne  
3 by a salesperson in the train; a merchandise management terminal  
4 connected to said user mobile terminals and said salesperson  
5 terminals via a network in the train; and a merchandise management  
6 server to which said merchandise management terminal is connected  
7 via the Internet; wherein:

8 said user mobile terminal has:

9 means for accessing said merchandise management server  
10 in advance, for registering personal information, for  
11 downloading an in-train merchandise purchase program and for  
12 storing it;

13 means for transmitting and receiving data to and from said  
14 merchandise management terminal by way of short-range wireless  
15 communication;

16 means, at the time of actuating said in-train merchandise  
17 purchase program, for acquiring inventory volume information  
18 on each merchandise item from said merchandise management  
19 terminal and for displaying it on an ordering menu screen; and

20 means for causing ordering information on merchandise to

21 be entered by using said in-train merchandise purchase program  
22 and for transmitting the entered ordering information;

23 said salesperson terminal has:

24 means for receiving the ordering information from said  
25 merchandise management terminal and for displaying it; and

26 means for transmitting to said merchandise management  
27 terminal ordering information pertaining to already completed  
28 delivery after the delivery of merchandise to the passenger and  
29 sale completion information entered from the salesperson;

30 said merchandise management terminal has:

31 means for managing the inventory volume of each merchandise  
32 item;

33 means for transmitting inventory volume information on  
34 each merchandise item at a request from said user mobile terminal;

35 means for receiving ordering information from said user  
36 mobile terminal and, for requesting authentication by  
37 transmitting said ordering information to said merchandise  
38 management server if the payment method contained in said  
39 ordering information is not cash payment;

40 means, when notified by said merchandise management server  
41 of authentication or in the case of cash payment, for transmitting  
42 said ordering information to said salesperson terminal; and

43 means for receiving said ordering information and said  
44 sale completion information from said salesperson terminal, for  
45 updating the inventory volume and, at the same time, for  
46 transmitting said ordering information and said sale completion  
47 information to said merchandise management server; and

48 said merchandise management server has:

49 means for storing personal information registered in

50 advance from said user mobile terminal;

51 means , when having received a request for authentication  
52 from said merchandise management terminal, for checking said  
53 ordering information with said registered personal information,  
54 and for notifying the result of checkup for authentication; and

55 means , when having received said sale completion  
56 information and said ordering information from said merchandise  
57 management terminal, for discerning whether the payment method  
58 is cash payment and, for settling the pertinent account when  
59 it is any other method than cash payment.

1 4. The sales system, as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said  
2 personal information includes the name, password, and account  
3 settlement information on any other payment method than cash  
4 payment, and

5 said ordering information includes the name, password,  
6 seat number, merchandise item, volume purchased, sum payable  
7 and payment method.

1 5. The sales system, as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said  
2 merchandise management server further has means , when having  
3 received a request for authentication from said merchandise  
4 management terminal, for checking whether the name and the  
5 password contained in said ordering information are identical  
6 with the respective ones registered in advance as personal  
7 information; for discerning whether account settlement  
8 information matching the payment method contained in said  
9 ordering information is contained in the pertinent personal  
10 information and, for giving authentication if both the name and

11 the password are identical and the account settlement information  
12 is registered.

1           6. The sales system, as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said  
2 short-range wireless communication is infrared ray  
3 communication,

4           said user mobile terminal has means for performing infrared  
5 ray communication with a seat wireless unit provided on each  
6 seat in the train, and

7           said seat wireless unit has means for establishing  
8 connection to said merchandise management terminal via said  
9 network in the train.

1           7. The sales system, as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said  
2 short-range wireless communication is Bluetooth communication,  
3           said user mobile terminal has means for performing  
4 Bluetooth communication with Bluetooth wireless units provided  
5 in the train, and

6           said Bluetooth wireless units have means for establishing  
7 connection to said merchandise management terminal via said  
8 network in the train.

1           8. The sales system, as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the  
2 in-train merchandise purchase program stored in said user mobile  
3 terminal includes a plurality of kinds of programs differing  
4 in available menus,

5           said merchandise management terminal contains a table of  
6 menus in which seat numbers are matched with available menus,  
7 and

8        said merchandise management terminal has means , when said  
9        ordering information has been received from said user mobile  
10       terminal, for judging by referencing said table of menus whether  
11       the contents of the menu according to which an order has been  
12       received from the seat number contained in said ordering  
13       information are approved.

1        9. The sales system, as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said  
2        plurality of kinds of programs are for first-class cars and for  
3        second-class cars.

1        10. The sales system, as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said  
2        plurality of kinds of programs are for reserved seats and for  
3        non-reserved seats.

1        11. The sales system, as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said  
2        available menus include a menu for buying merchandise and a menu  
3        for using rental service.

1        12. A merchandise management terminal in a sales system  
2        comprising user mobile terminals, each owned by a train  
3        passenger; salesperson terminals each borne by a salesperson  
4        in the train; a merchandise management terminal connected to  
5        said user mobile terminals and said salesperson terminals via  
6        a network in the train; and a merchandise management server to  
7        which said merchandise management terminal is connected via the  
8        Internet; wherein:

9               said merchandise management terminal has:  
10              means for managing the inventory volume of each merchandise

11 item; means for transmitting inventory volume information on  
12 each merchandise item at a request from said user mobile terminal;  
13 means for receiving ordering information from said user mobile  
14 terminal and, for requesting authentication by transmitting  
15 said ordering information to said merchandise management server  
16 if the payment method contained in said ordering information  
17 is not cash payment; means for transmitting said ordering  
18 information to said salesperson terminal when notified by said  
19 merchandise management server of authentication or in the case  
20 of cash payment; and means for receiving said ordering  
21 information and said sale completion information from said  
22 salesperson terminal, for updating the inventory volume and,  
23 for transmitting said ordering information and said sale  
24 completion information to said merchandise management server  
25 at the same time.

1 13. A sales method for use in a sales system comprising  
2 user mobile terminals, each owned by a train passenger;  
3 salesperson terminals each borne by a salesperson in the train;  
4 a merchandise management terminal connected to said user mobile  
5 terminals and said salesperson terminals via a network in the  
6 train; and a merchandise management server to which said  
7 merchandise management terminal is connected via the Internet;  
8 comprising:

9 registering in advance with said merchandise management  
10 server personal information including the name, password and  
11 account settlement information by said user mobile terminal;

12 downloading an in-train merchandise purchase program  
13 from said merchandise management server and storing it in advance

14 in said user mobile terminal;

15 transmitting actuation information from said user mobile  
16 terminal to said merchandise management terminal when the train  
17 passenger has actuated said in-train merchandise purchase  
18 program on said user mobile terminal;

19 transmitting the current inventory volume information  
20 from said merchandise management terminal to said user mobile  
21 terminal when said merchandise management terminal managing the  
22 inventory volume of each merchandise item receives said actuation  
23 information;

24 displaying an ordering menu screen containing the  
25 inventory volume of each merchandise item by said user mobile  
26 terminal;

27 transmitting ordering information from said user mobile  
28 terminal to said merchandise management terminal when the  
29 passenger enters ordering information on the screen;

30 discerning by said merchandise management terminal  
31 whether the payment method contained in said ordering information  
32 is cash payment;

33 transmitting said ordering information from said  
34 merchandise management terminal to said merchandise management  
35 server and requests authentication when the payment method is  
36 any other method than cash payment;

37 checking by said merchandise management server whether  
38 account settlement information matching the name, the password  
39 and the payment method contained in said ordering information  
40 is registered and transmitting the result of checkup for  
41 authentication from said merchandise management server to said  
42 merchandise management terminal;



43           transmitting said ordering information from said  
44 merchandise management terminal to said salesperson terminal  
45 when notified of authentication or in the case of cash payment;

46           transmitting from said salesperson terminal to said  
47 merchandise management terminal the entered sale completion  
48 information and the ordering information pertaining to the  
49 already completed delivery when the salesperson enters sale  
50 completion information indicating the completion of delivery  
51 of merchandise to the passenger of the seat number contained  
52 in said ordering information;

53           transmitting said sale completion information and said  
54 ordering information from said merchandise management terminal  
55 to said merchandise management server when said merchandise  
56 management terminal receives said sale completion information  
57 and said ordering information pertaining to the already completed  
58 delivery, updates the inventory volume and at the same time;

59           discerning by said merchandise management server whether  
60 the payment method contained in said ordering information is  
61 cash payment; and

62           settling the pertinent account according to the account  
63 settlement information registered correspondingly to the name  
64 and the password registered in said ordering information by  
65 said merchandise management server when the payment method is  
66 any other method than cash payment.

1           14. A program applicable, in a sales system comprising  
2 user mobile terminals, each owned by a train passenger,  
3 salesperson terminals each borne by a salesperson in the train,  
4 a merchandise management terminal connected to said user mobile

5 terminals and said salesperson terminals via a network in the  
6 train, and a merchandise management server to which said  
7 merchandise management terminal is connected via the Internet,  
8 to said merchandise management terminal to cause a computer to  
9 achieve processing, said processing comprising:

10 managing the inventory volume of each merchandise item;  
11 transmitting the inventory volume of each merchandise item  
12 at a request from said user mobile terminal;

13 receiving ordering information from said user mobile  
14 terminal and, if the payment method contained in said ordering  
15 information is not cash payment, requests authentication by  
16 transmitting said ordering information to said merchandise  
17 management server;

18 transmitting, when notified of authentication by said  
19 merchandise management server or in the case of cash payment,  
20 said ordering information to said salesperson terminal; and

21 updating, upon receiving said ordering information and  
22 sale completion information, the inventory volume and  
23 transmitting at the same time said ordering information and said  
24 sale completion information to said merchandise management  
25 server as account settling information.